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HEALTH
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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Urban District of Woodhall Spa

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1959

WOODHALL SPA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health

S.A. O'HAGAN, M.B.,B.S.,D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

D.A. NORMAN, M.A.P.H.I.
(Appointed July, 1957).

The Highways, Sewerage and Public Health Committees deal with the majority of Public Health Matters although a separate Water Committee and Parks and Playing Fields Committee deal with water supplies and swimming baths.
All members of the Council sit on all Committees.

To The Chairman and Members of
The Urban District Council of Woodhall Spa.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of your Medical Officer of Health for 1959.

Little change will be found in the compilation of the report, since much of the style is prescribed.

Since last year, the birth rate has jumped 36% and although last year I criticised this aspect of the life of Woodhall Spa, I can hardly claim credit for remedying the defect !.

Deaths have been constant for several years, following a period during which the deaths increased year by year and it seems that a period of extended life was provided so that for a while death had been in abeyance and had begun to catch up and now, having caught up, has become stable.

There is a gradual but important change in the atmosphere of Woodhall Spa. This affects the young people and the visitors. The elderly still come for a quiet walk and tea but they have been joined more and more by family groups and youngsters attracted by the amenities of the park. The Councils efforts to make more ample provision for them is most welcome.

The early months of the year showed quite a sharp crop of pneumonias, affecting all age groups but not associated with the usual mortality rate. No really satisfactory explanation was obtained and the epidemic went as quickly as it came.

I remain, Sirs,
Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

Area of Urban District :	1874 acres
Registrar General's Mid-Year Estimate of Resident Population :	2160
Density of Population :	1.167
Number of Inhabited Dwellings :	635
Rateable Value of Urban District :	£23,165
Sum Represented by Penny Rate :	£86. 0. 5d.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

	1959
Live Births	38
Rate per 1000 population	17.6
Illegitimate live births % total	Nil
Still Births	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	Nil
Total live and still births	38
Maternal Mortality	1
Rate per 1000 associated live and still births	29.0

It may be noted that only 7 of the 38 births credited to the district were registered in the district.
This gives some indication of the proportion of deliveries which occur in hospital.

DEATHS

	1957	1958	1959
Male	23	21	20
Female	29	31	32
Total	52	52	52

Deaths per 1000 population 24.0

Standardized Death Rate per 1000 14.6

National (England and Wales Death Rate) per 1000 11.1

Deaths were distributed according to age as shown in the table :-

Age at Death

0 - 1.	1 - 5.	5 - 14.	15 - 24.	25 - 34.	35 - 44.	45 - 54.
0	1	0	0	0	1	0
55-64.	65-74.	75 and over.				
2	10	47				

Causes of death at ages under 75 years as follows :-

Coronary Thrombosis	2
Broncho Pneumonia	2
Embolism after childbirth	1
Lymphatic Leukaemia	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1
Rheumatic Heart Disease	1
Arteriosclerotic Kidney	1
Cancer of Stomach	1
Cancer of Bladder	1

There appears to be little of significance in the causes of early death, and give no support to the theory that coronary thrombosis was primarily a stress disease. The two deaths recorded from this cause were of a lorry driver aged 55 and a farmer aged 71.

Causes of Death as shown in the Registrar General's short list

Short List No.	Cause of Death	Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory	0	0	0
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.	Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.	Measles	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	1	0	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	0	0	0
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast	0	1	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	0	0	0
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	2	4
15.	Laukaemia, aleukaemia	1	0	1
16.	Diabetes	0	0	0
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	2	6	8
18.	Coronary disease, angina	4	6	10
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0
20.	Other heart diseases	5	7	12
21.	Other circulatory disease	0	1	1
22.	Influenza	2	0	2
23.	Pneumonia	0	1	1
24.	Bronchitis	2	1	3
25.	Other diseases of Respiratory system	0	0	0
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0	0
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	0	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	1	0	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	0	0	0
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases	0	5	5
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0
34.	All other accidents	0	0	0
35.	Suicide	0	0	0
36.	Homicide and operations of war.	0	0	0
		20.	32.	52.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifications of infectious diseases during the year were as follows :-

	1958.	1959.
Pneumonia Primary	3	12
" Influenzal	2	11
Scarlet Fever	0	3
Erysipelas	1	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0
Measles	41	15
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0
Whooping Cough	0	4

It is of note that the 4 cases of Whooping Cough all occurred in one family.

Vaccination and Immunization

During 1955 the pressure of poliomyelitis vaccination relaxed a little but the renewal of the campaign against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough did not get fully under way. Nevertheless the appended table shows a substantial improvement upon 1958.

Some indication of the difficulty facing the doctor will be appreciated for all the antigens other than smallpox vaccine must be carried to all sessions and, when the child and record card appear, it is often necessary to question the parent, if present, to discover whether the child actually has had whooping cough (in which case immunization against it is pointless) and whether the statements that the child has been immunized against tetanus mean that he had one dose of serum after an injury or whether he was properly protected by a course of three injections during 6 months. The responsibility of ensuring that every child receives the correct dose of the correct antigen is difficult and necessarily slows the procedure.

It will seem that each year, about one third of the babies are vaccinated against smallpox and about only half are protected from diphtheria and whooping cough. No doubt it will take an epidemic with a few deaths to remind parents of their duty.

The following table shows the preventive treatments given in Woodhall Spa during 1959 :-

	Under 1 year.	1-4.	5-14.	15 or over.	Total
Smallpox -vaccination	15	2	0	0	17
-revaccination	0	1	2	0	3
Tetanus - Immunization	0	1	1	1	3
Whooping Cough & Tetanus Immunization	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough Immunization	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria & Tetanus Immunization	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus Combined (Triple) Immunization	17	4	1	0	22
Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunization	3	2	1	0	6
	Under 5 years.				
Diphtheria Immunization (alone)	2		1	0	3
" " (booster)	0		18	0	18

There are, unfortunately, no separate figures of Poliomyelitis vaccination for each district, but having regard to the difficulties in a scattered community such as Lindsey the overall figures cannot be regarded as unsatisfactory.

In the case of vaccination against tuberculosis, again, detailed information is not available, but about half of the 13 year old children are tested and 80 - 90% found to require vaccination.

Tuberculosis detection

Arrangements were made for the Lincolnshire Mass Radiography Unit to visit Horncastle but so far as I know, it was not visited by anyone from Woodhall Spa.

It may be possible, later, to arrange for it to visit the Spa.

Food Poisoning

There were again no notifications under this heading. The food premises are capable of complying with the regulations and I have no suggestion that they have, with one exception, continuously complied.

The National Health Service Act, 1946

Provisions under this act remained unchanged. The Alexandra Hospital remains the only hospital in this district and is specially reserved for rheumatism.

General Hospital accommodation, and Maternity beds are available at Lincoln, Boston and Louth. Infections conditions can be most conveniently dealt with at Lincoln.

Two doctors, a midwife/district nurse, and an Health Visitor practice in and around Woodhall Spa.

Ambulance service in non-emergency cases is arranged by the County Medical Officer's department, and the "999" call operates in emergencies.

Sanitary Circumstances

Water Supply :
1959 was a drought year and careful watch had to be maintained to avoid wastage. Nevertheless supply was maintained satisfactorily.

Sewage Disposal

No nuisance to the public has arisen from this source apart from occasional sewer blockages which have taxed time and temper, as well as ingenuity to free them and it is fitting to give a word of praise to the men who have tackled these unsavoury jobs and worked on until the job was done.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

One Karrier Bantam still achieves a normal weekly visit. Here as elsewhere, the increase in bulky refuse, is increasing the work of collection. Some labour is involved in burning the obviously combustible material at the tip to prevent major spontaneous fires. With common sense, it seems to me that this is better than cluttering the ratepayers slow-burning grates with paper-ash.

The Swimming Pool

The exceptional demand by visitors and residents taxed all the park resources to the limit, but fortunately without breakdown. The Council has been actively considering extending both swimming and catering facilities as the demand has developed.

Housing

The only housing development during the year consisted of six private dwellings.

The majority of planning proposals have related to housing for the cars now used in preference to the fast disappearing public transport.

Neither discretionary nor standard grants for improvements have been taken up to any great extent, although the Council are prepared to consider either.

Temporary Dwellings

The demand for caravan accommodation has varied from time to time but, on the whole, has tended to decline.

The Council continued to allow the use of part of the football field to members of the "Approved Organizations".

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

No occasion arose to involve this section during the year of 1959.

REPORT OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING THE YEAR

HOUSING:

Total number of houses erected during the year :-	
(1) by local authority	-
(2) by other local authorities	-
(3) by other bodies or persons	6
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 - 1957 :-	
(1) Number of certificates of disrepair issued	-
Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :-	
(1) (a) total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	32
(b) number of inspections made for the purpose	50
Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :-	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	11
(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-	-
(2) Proceedings under the Housing Acts :-	-
(3) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts:-	
(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition Orders were made (individual unfit houses only)	-
(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders (individual unfit houses only)	-
(c) Number of dwelling houses, or parts, subject to closing Orders	2
(d) Number of dwelling houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	-
(e) Number of dwelling houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	-
(f) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance thereof	-
(g) Total number of dwelling houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and which are still occupied except under the provisions of Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	-
(h) Total number of dwelling houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	-
(i) Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure	2

Housing Acts - Overcrowding

(a) (1)	number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	-
(2)	number of persons concerned in such cases	-
(b) (1)	number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	2
(2)	number of families dwelling therein	2
(3)	number of persons dwelling therein	17

Housing Acts, 1949 - 59.

number of dwellings for which applications for grants have been received	Standard	1
	Discretionary	2
number of dwellings subject to grant	Standard	1
	Discretionary	2
number of houses owned by local authority which have been the subject of grant aid by the Ministry		-

Moveable dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.

number of site licences	2
number of individual licences	1
total number of caravans permitted under licences	13
number of inspections during the year - sites	11
- dwellings	2
number of contraventions remedied	2

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses

number in district	2
number of inspections	1
number of contraventions	-
defects remedied	-

Milk Supplies

number of distributors on register	
Sterilized	3
Pasteurised	3
T.T.	3
N/D	-
number of samples of milk taken in course of delivery	-
number of inspections of dairy premises	6
contraventions remedied	-

Ice Cream

number of manufacturers on register	2
number of premises licenced for sale of ice cream	9
number of inspections of premises made	17
number of contraventions found	-
contraventions remedied	-
number of samples taken - Grade I	-
- Other Grades	-

Meat Products

number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	1
number of inspections made	1
number of contraventions found	-
contraventions remedied	-

Other Food Premises

number of inspections made	12
number of contraventions found	4
contraventions remedied	4

Slaughterhouses

number of licenced - abattoir type	-
- private individual	-
number operated by local authority	-

UNSOUND FOOD

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part -

Other condemned foods -

Method of disposal - incineration

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets

No. of houses with privy vaults in district	1
No. of houses with pail closets in district	5
No. of houses with water closets in district	634
No. of water closets substituted for pail closets or privy vaults	-

Cesspools and Septic Tanks

No. of cesspools and septic tanks emptied, cleansed etc.	2
No. of cesspools and septic tanks abolished	-

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewers or where existing sewage arrangements improved :- -

Details of areas or villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved :- -

Any part of district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for public health reasons :- No.

WATER SUPPLIES

Domestic

No. of houses supplied from public mains - in house	639
- standpipe	3
No. of houses supplied from private sources	0
New sources of supply and location	0
No. of public supplies closed	0
Any part of district requiring public supply or replacement of public supply for public health reasons	No.
No. of samples taken for chemical examination	0
No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination	

Class I - 12. Class II - 0. Class III - 0.

Swimming Pools

Number of public swimming pools in operation	1
Number fitted with continuous mechanical filteration and chlorination	1
Number of samples of swimming pool water taken for chemical examination	0
Number of samples of swimming pool water taken for bacteriological examination - satisfactory	0
- unsatisfactory	0

GENERAL

Offensive Trades

Number of premises in district	0

Knackers Yards

Number licenced	0

Shops Act, 1950

Number of shops inspected	9
Contraventions remedied	0

Disinfection and disinfestation

Rooms or premises disinfected (a) infectious diseases other than tuberculosis	1
(b) tuberculosis	-
Number of premises subject to disinfestation	1

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is collected	674
Frequency of collection	7 - 9 days
Method of disposal	controlled tipping
Is this satisfactory ?	yes.
Is collection by local authority or contract	L.A.

Nuisances

Total number of nuisances during the year

(1) abated as a result of informal action by Public Health Inspector	29
(2) Reported to the Council Statutory notice issued	-
" " not issued	-

Details of nuisances abated	After Informal intimation	After Statutory notice
Refuse	3	-
Foul ditches, ponds & stagnant water	14	-
Drainage	9	-
Poultry and animals	1	-
Dangerous Premises	-	-
Miscellaneous nuisances	2	-

Rats and Mice Destruction

No. of rodent operatives employed	1 part time
No. of premises treated - dwelling houses	27
- other premises	33
Are there any serious reservoirs of rats in the district ?	No

Atmospheric pollution

No. of visits	0
No. of nuisances found	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

PART I of the Act - inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecution
i. factories in which secs. 1 - 4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	5	9	0	0
ii. factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority	37	0	0	0
iii. other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the local authority	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	42	9	0	0

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were Found	Remedied	Number of cases which prosecuttions were instituted
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-
Sanitary conveniences :-			
Insufficent	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-
Not separate for sexes	-	0	-
Other offences against the act	2	2	-
TOTAL	3	3	-